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**From:** Shore, Berry  
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**Subject:** PFOA/PFOS Clips

## **State reassessing threats to Newburgh watershed**

By Leonard Sparks

Updated Oct 27, 2016 at 6:57 PM

Times Herald-Record

CITY OF NEWBURGH — As if cut and pasted, the same two lines repeat in each annual report on the quality of the watershed feeding the City of Newburgh's drinking water.

"The NYS DOH (Department of Health) has evaluated our susceptibility to contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program. ... The analysis of available information for this source water assessment did not find any significant sources of contamination in the watershed."

It is possible that for each year of those reports — which span 2005 to 2015 — Stewart Air National Guard Base was discharging the contaminant whose high levels forced the closure of Newburgh's primary water supply in May and spurred an environmental and public health crisis.

The state assesses drinking water supplies under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. So far the only existing source water assessment for Newburgh was done in 2005 for Brown's Pond, the city's little-used backup source, and not Washington Lake, the primary source.

In the wake of the closure of Washington Lake, the state Department of Health and Department of Environmental Conservation are undertaking a new source water assessment of the watershed that supplies Newburgh's drinking water.

While the review is at the beginning stage, city officials and environmentalists are heartened by the state's commitment to investigating a watershed whose brooks, streams and creeks are encircled by Stewart air base and airport, and industrial and retail development.

The hope is that the review will lead to stronger protections.

"We need to start treating it as something that we all have a shared interest in maintaining, and that, at some point, there is a point of no return with economic development as it relates to long-term costs," Newburgh City Manager Michael Ciaravino said.

Washington Lake's contamination is being blamed on Stewart Air Base. High levels of perfluorooctane sulfonate were found at a base retention pond that discharges into a tributary of Silver Stream, whose waters Newburgh has long diverted into Washington Lake.

Other pressures come from commercial, industrial and retail development, and the high-traffic state routes that bisect the watershed.

One of the things the state will re-examine is the current waterways' classifications, which determines how strongly they are protected.

Stewart's discharge permit from the DEC lists the Silver Stream tributary's classification as "D," given to waters considered best used for fishing. It also assigns a "D" to Patton Brook, which has also been diverted to Washington Lake for use as drinking water.

Dan Shapley, water quality program manager for Riverkeeper, is among the environmentalists urging the state to upgrade those classifications to "A," the designation for drinking water.

“We need to recognize that if we are going to allow stormwater discharges or other pollution from the airport and the Air Force base into that supply, we have to understand it's drinking water and we have to make sure that it's not going to put people at risk,” he said.

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## **Tests Show Kingston Fire Department's Well Is Contaminated**

By Emily Corwin

Oct 27, 2016

New Hampshire Public Radio

Photo: The well serving Kingston NH's Fire Department has tested above the state's standard for PFOA, a water contaminant also found at the former Pease Air Force Base, and surrounding the Saint-Gobain plastics plant in Merrimack.

The state tested the Kingston Fire Department's well water first in September. That was after the town began offering the water to residents whose wells are failing due to the drought. This week, a second water test confirmed: Kingston's fire department's well is contaminated with PFOA, at a level over the state's regulatory standard.

Now, residents with drying wells are being directed to get water from the Kingston Library, which has also been tested, and is not contaminated.

The Department of Environmental Services reports it has now also tested wells surrounding the Fire Department for PFOA. Those tested either below the state's standard, or at non-detectable levels.

DES spokesman Jim Martin says the department's believes the contaminated well was not being used for drinking water at the Fire Department.

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